

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected all of the claims under consideration under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. The Examiner questioned the relationship between the space (t1) and the insulating layer. In addition, the Examiner questioned the "injecting step" in certain method claims that depended from a previous apparatus claim. To clarify this latter matter, a telephonic discussion with the Examiner was conducted on September 14, 2004, and the Examiner stated that this aspect of the rejection could be overcome by placing the method claims in independent form.

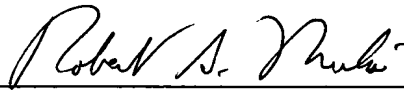
By the present Amendment, minor revisions have been made throughout the specification. In addition, the claims have been amended to define the structural arrangement including the insulating layer (5) and the space (t1) more clearly. In particular, Figs. 1-4 illustrate that the insulating layer is defined by a recess formed on a surface of the cavity block. Figure 5 and the first paragraph of page 14 illustrate and describe that the space (t1) is between the cavity block and the mold base. In this cross-sectional view, the insulating layer formed in the cavity block is hidden from view. Therefore, the amendments to the claims are believed to fully meet this aspect of the rejection without altering the substantive nature thereof. As to the method claims, each has been amended to recite the structure of the mold so as to be placed in independent form. As such, the injecting step is entirely consistent with the method claim and therefore all method claims are likewise believed to comply with the provisions of §112. Claims 21 and 32 have been further amended so that appropriate antecedent basis exists.

Since all matters set forth in the Official Action are believed to be fully met by the present Amendment reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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